EQUAL RIGHTS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

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Woman Movement A World Revolution

By GAETA WOLD BOYER

SOMETIMES it is borne in upon us that our struggle for equal rights is not an insular affair limited by our own geographical boundaries. We need occasionally to be reminded of this that we may see ourselves in our proper relation to the rest of the world.

Certainly we were dramatically reminded of the universality of woman's cry for equality by the amazing incident in England when the change or continuance of the Government was recently made to hinge on an equality amendment to the Education bill. So significant was this that one of the leading international commentators, Raymond Gram Swing, devoted his broadcast period to the subject March 29.

The simple fact that such an amendment came up for debate in Parliament at such a critical moment in world history is proof that the women of England have not forgotten their own great war — the war against injustice to women. And the fact that the frightened lawmakers scurried to cover and reversed their vote was not a victory for anti-feminism. The flare-up had shown the growing importance of the women's equality question and the latent power it has of becoming a determining factor.

Wars are breeders of unrest and often a physical war serves to bring to a head the mental battles that have been quietly going on for ages. As Mr. Swing said, there is a revolution in progress in "the elevation of women to equal status with men." These mental wars are not so obvious as the shot-and-shell kind, but its soldiers are nonetheless loyal and steadfast. Word comes to us from the front in many devastated countries that the women are carrying on. They recognize the necessity of establishing woman's place on a basis of absolute equality with men to meet the post-war problems, and they know that this is the time.

Irving Fisher, political economist and author, in his endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment, said:

> "Women are not fully represented by men. The life of a man is largely centered on preserving property and earning a living. The life of a woman is largely centered on preserving life and caring for children. War costs both property and life. But the latter cost is the greater and this fact is more appreciated by women than by men. If world peace ever comes, it will be largely due to the love of the lives of the family in the hearts of wives and mothers. Whatever adds to the prerogatives of women promotes world peace."

Some go further and are absolutely convinced that if the women of the world had been powerfully organized there would never have been a second world war. The women of Australia are awake to the vast possibilities of organization among women to build a better world and a lasting peace. Despite the war at their very doors, handicapped as they are by loss of their meeting centers, hampered by countless difficulties in transportation, hindered even in their correspondence by censorship, they still work to realize their ideals.

A report comes to us of a women's conference held in Sydney which was attended by delegates from ninety women's organizations from all over that vast continent. They have drawn up what they call the Australian Women's Charter setting forth what they want in the post-war world.

> "It is futile, women leaders here feel," writes Bessie Rischlieth, "to imagine any satisfactory reconstruction of this unhappy world, unless the full recognition and acceptance of women's position is assured. Women must be recognized as a human unit equally with men. Unfortunately, so many men having the power to direct hold a reactionary attitude to women's position and status, while at the same time never ceasing to eulogize women's position in the war effort. . . . From our women colleagues in the Allied Nations we gather that they also experience this same old and futile attitude toward them."

The Australian Women's Charter seeks to embody the aims and aspirations of Australian women in planning and building the post-war world. The preamble states that the undeniable contribution by women to all phases of human life is inadequately recognized; that women are subjected to many discriminations and limitations on account of their sex; that since it has been proved necessary to develop the capabilities of women and to utilize the resources of womanpower to achieve victory in the war, it will be equally necessary to continue this utilization in the post-war world; that in order to achieve a lasting victory and peace that will be effective the principle of equality for women must be established. The Charter then outlines a specific program in relation to all women's activities which will be submitted to the Government.

Equal Pay for Women Teachers

From England comes word that women's organizations continue to work for equality. Certainly it must have entailed endless work and courage to force the issue of equal pay for women teachers at a time when Parliament looks at everything from the viewpoint of the world war. To be sure the implications were so far-reaching, involving as they might the whole course of the war, that Parliament, after its one-day rebellion stood shocked by its own act and defeated the measure. But in defeat the feminists won a moral victory. In England now women are working for equal rights in unemployment benefits, and the Married Women's Association is asking the Government to make the housewife an equal financial partner with her husband.

Dorothy Evans, national organizer for the Women's Publicity Planning Association, writes to the National Woman's Party, which women in all lands are now thinking of as the world feminist center, "We must keep the World Woman's Party for Equal Rights closely knit together in spite of the enormous difficulties. This

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Equal Rights

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress and the several States shall have power within their respective jurisdictions, to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

"This amendment shall take effect five years after the date of ratification."

History in Present Congress

House Joint Resolution No. 1 Introduced Jan. 6, 1943, in House of Representatives by Representative Ludlow (Ind.) with forty-two co-sponsors. Reported by Sub-Judiciary Committee to full Judiciary Committee with unanimous favorable recommendation, June 22, 1943. Brought to a vote in Judiciary Committee Oct. 5 and failed by three votes of necessary majority for favorable report. Now before House Judiciary Committee, notice having been given of intention to ask for reconsideration by several members. Discharge Petition initiated Feb. 15, 1944, by Rep. Pat Cannon, to bring Amendment to vote on floor of House.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 25 Introduced January 21, 1943, in Senate by Senator Guy M. Gillette (Iowa) with twenty-three co-sponsors. Reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee to the Senate, May 28, 1943. Now on Senate calendar.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

The National Council of the N. W. P. consists of the officers, past Chairmen, the Chairman of each of the State and Territory branches and the D. C., the Chairmen of the Occupational Councils and twenty Members at Large.

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The Third Governor To Endorse

Governor Hickenlooper (Republican) of Iowa is the third Governor to make a public endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment. He has just written to Mrs. Ralph E. Hayden, the Iowa state chairman for the National Woman's Party, the following:

Dear Mrs. Hayden: Des Moines, Iowa.

". . . Relative to the Equal Rights Amendment, I have always been for the amendment, and as I told you in my former letter, I was instrumental in getting it into the Iowa platform. Yours very truly,

B. B. HICKENLOOPER, *Governor.*

Gov. Henry F. Schricker (Democrat) of Indiana, and Gov. Lester C. Hunt (Democrat) of Wyoming, are the other two who have endorsed the amendment.

Woman Movement A Revolution

(Continued from Page 1)

period of preparation before the great world reconstruction is intensely important. If we miss our opportunity to achieve equality as an integral part of democracy we shall be set back another twenty years.'"

From Sweden, Anna T. Nilsson, member of the World Council of the World Woman's Party, writes to Alice Paul that the women are asking for equal salaries with men in industries, a movement initiated by the Textile Industry League.

From Algiers comes the report that the DeGaulle Committee has promised that equal suffrage will be given French women after the liberation of France.

A letter from Madame Kannila of Finland carries a note of hope that refuses to be killed. She expresses the Finnish women's confidence that at the end of the war international friendships between women will be renewed and they can work together again for the advancement of women.

In Switzerland the National Council of Women met in its 42nd general assembly and, one reporter writes, the attendance of more than 300 under such difficult circumstances "gave them new enthusiasm and courage to carry on their work for women in homes and organizations."

In Mexico women have asked the next Congress to pass legislation granting them the right to vote, and feminists say if it is not granted they will stage a demonstration in the capital city.

Thus reports come from one country after another indicating that the woman movement goes forward. That it goes bravely on in war-ridden countries is a thrilling thought, almost awe-inspiring. That the faithful band that has struggled so long sticks valiantly to its principles in the midst of suffering, devastation and death should be a spur to the more fortunate countries. In certain countries the governments have revived the old restrictions against women and added new prohibitions until it may seem that the ground so painfully won in past years has been lost. But even there women, recognizing their humiliation, carry on in a sort of underground of their own, striving to keep alive the spark of woman's liberation. If for no other reason we should not fail them.

Dr. Lena Madesin Phillips recently said:

> "We work and endure not alone for the women of our own nation. As President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, I know how eagerly in happier days the women of Europe and throughout the world have desired and followed the leadership of American women. 'Show us the way and give us the inspiration of example,' they said. Now in the darkness and despair which is the lot of so many of them, it ns necessary as never before that the women of America be strong and wise and free."

We may well feel encouraged that the woman movement is universal and that everywhere the demand for complete equality is becoming more vocal. But we must work all the harder here at home to realize our ideals that we may stand as an example for less fortunate countries. Congress seems to be growing conscious of this. Daily letters from Senators and Representatives come in, letters of great enthusiasm for the equal rights cause, letters urging us not to lose heart, letters pledging every help. These are some of the comments: "I will do everything in my power to advance the amendment; simple justice demands it." **(Rep. Gearhart, California.)** "I have always advocated equal rights for women." **(Senator Robertson,**

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The Equal Rights Amendment

By MADALENE CARROLL

A thousand discriminations against women are woven into the warp and woof of the legislation in every State in the Union. In Connecticut, it was only after years of effort that women were finally given the opportunity to sit on juries. This right is still denied them in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We in Connecticut are accustomed to having a woman in the office of Secretary of State, but until last year it was against the law for any woman to hold one of the higher political offices in Oklahoma.

To remove these discriminations against women State by State is extremely costly in money, time, and in the energy of women whose work is so desperately needed in dealing with the problems of the present and of the future. In addition, state legislation is insecure. One legislature may repeal the gains made by its predecessor.

Thus the logical step to take, one that is a necessary supplement to the Suffrage Amendment, is to obtain passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. The proposed act provides that: *Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.*

The need for the amendment arises from the fact that the word *person* in the Constitution has been interpreted as *male.* As Miss M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr, used to say: "Behind every man, as a man, stands the Constitution; but forever behind a woman is the medieval English common law which places upon her the stigma of inferiority and bondage."

The handbook on the amendment issued by the General Federation, of Women's Clubs whose national board of directors has endorsed the amendment, says: "Constitutional inequality not only preserves the bad laws of the past, but encourages the enactment of new ones. It fortifies every employer, every university, every college, and every professional school in discriminating against women. It prevents the election of women to office and their appointment to positions of trust and responsibility. It sends women into the world handicapped. It affects women's confidence in their own ability and provides fertile ground for a devastating inferiority complex. It prevents women from becoming adult."

Opposition to the amendment has centered in two arguments. Twenty years ago when the amendment was first suggested, it was feared it might undermine the protective legislation for women in industry which guaranteed them limited hours, and minimum wages. Despite such legislation, women are still the lowest-paid group according to Miss Mary Anderson, head of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor. Large national groups have now abandoned as a fallacy that argument against the amendment. As Prof. E. Wight Bakke of Yale University has said: "Equal rights for male citizens do not preclude special rights for particular groups of male citizens. . . ." Miners, industrial workers, veterans, and other groups have successfully demanded and obtained special rights.

The other argument of the opposition is that were the amendment to be adopted, the courts would be cluttered with cases interpreting whether certain laws denied equality of rights. Mr. Charles G. Morris, well-known civic-minded lawyer of New Haven, has effectively answered that argument by pointing out, "If that is a valid argument no legislation should ever be proposed". All legislation is subject to review by the courts.

The special advantages to be derived from the amendment would be the rounding-out of the Constitution as a guarantee of equality of rights to women as well as to men, the raising of the economic, political and social status of women, and the abolition of the civic wastefulness of condemning women to root out these ancient discriminations state by state.

Great reforms of this kind do not come without effort. It was Mrs. Florence Kitchelt, Chairman of the Connecticut League for Equal Rights, who first interested me in the Equal Rights Amendment. She said, "It is time for teachers to express an active interest in this amendment. It is now before the Senate of the United States. In the House it is still in the Judiciary Committee, whose sub-committee sent in a unanimous report in its favor."

We may win now, while the war is sharpening public appreciation of women's work—IF every teacher who favors the amendment will send her name to the Connecticut Committee working for its passage.

The writer will be glad to receive, at the Commercial High School, the names of all teachers interested.

(Printed by permission of the *New Haven Teachers' Journal,* Vol. 37, No. 2, December, 1943, Pages 19, 20.)

(*Note.* Madalene Carroll, whose article appears above, is well qualified by training and example to plead this cause. A graduate of the Curry School of Expression, possessing an M. A. from Columbia in Speech Pathology, she teaches Speech in the Commercial High School. She taught for a number of years at Albertus Magnus and now maintains a private Speech Clinic. In her professional field, she is a past president of the Connecticut Speech Association, a past vice-president of the Eastern Speech Association, and is at present secretary-treasurer of the New England Speech Association. In collaboration with two other investigators she made a study of Teen-Age Stutterers under the auspices of the Institute of Human Relations, Yale University. She has been a director of the Edgewood Players since its origin. This organization, now inactive for the duration, is the oldest amateur theatrical group in Connecticut. Active in the League of Women Voters and in the A.A.U.W. she also holds the important post in the U.S.O. as Chairman of Home Contact, a committee which seeks opportunities for the entertainment of servicemen in New Haveners' homes.)

Florence Bayard Hilles Library

MARY ELIZABETH DOWNEY, *Librarian*

The Library Journal article, entitled "The New Feminist Library in Washington," is being the means of some fine publicity for the Library, as well as for the National Woman's Party in general.

Reprints have been secured for distribution to members and to others interested. It is hoped a little later to publish a brochure containing the full program of the official naming of the Library.

The Librarian was invited to address the staff of the U. S. Securities Board Library on "The Activities of the Florence Bayard Hilles Library."

A complete report of the Library has been written from which a summary will be given Council Members. It is surprising how much has been accomplished already, especially considering the limited material at hand.

Gifts: Ruby Black, Kathryn L. Brougham, Ethel Clyde, James Waldo Fawcett, Mary Hallock Greenwalt, Hazel Moore, Second Church of Christ Scientist, Helena Hill Weed, and Anna Kelton Wiley.

Miss Mary E. O'Neill, New Montana Chairman

Another outstanding woman has been added to our group of state chairmen, Miss Mary E. O'Neill of Butte, Montana, who has undertaken the leadership of the National Woman's Party branch in her state.

Miss O'Neill is active in women's affairs in Montana and is credited with securing passage of a unanimous resolution favoring the Equal Rights Amendment at the State Convention of Business and Professional Clubs. She is now organizing various women's clubs to work for the amendment and to use their influence with their Congressional Representatives to vote favorably.

> "Everyone in Montana favors the amendment," she said. "Ours is a progressive, pioneer state which has always recognized the important part women have taken in its development. I am sure Montana will be among the first states to ratify the amendment once it has been submitted by Congress to the states. I have not met one single person who opposes it."

Senator Burton K. Wheeler, a lifelong friend of Miss O'Neill, speaks highly of her and says that the National Woman's Party could not find a more valuable and representative chairman.

Introducing Mrs. Walter Ferguson, Feminist

By GAETA WOLD BOYER

THAT equal rights is part of a universal struggle for a better world is the opinion of Mrs. Walter Ferguson, nationally known newspaper columnist of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mrs. Ferguson has just accepted the Oklahoma State Chairmanship for the National Woman's Party, and is entering wholeheartedly into the campaign for equal rights.

"We talk of the Four Freedoms," she said, "and justice and equality, but still many of our leaders, while promising all these to the rest of the world, deny them to half their own population. It is absurd that we, presumably the most enlightened, progressive nation on earth, are afraid to extend to our women their full right of equality, especially while we are exacting from them equal responsibility in the war."

Mrs. Ferguson, in a brief interview at Alva Belmont House, spoke of the condition of women in her own state, "which has a pretty bad record," she said. "Even as late as just before Pearl Harbor a bill was again introduced in our legislature to keep married women from teaching. This bill had been kicked around by one legislature after another and was only prevented from passing by the most heroic efforts of women's organizations. After Pearl Harbor, for some strange reason, that new bill in the legislature was never heard of again. It faded into oblivion. Women, married or not, were needed to do men's work."

Mrs. Ferguson is a woman of warm personality and charm. She speaks in a simple, straightforward manner that enlists sympathy and confidence—"as man to man" men call it—the manner of one who has studied and sympathized with women's problems for many years. Her speech, like her writings, reflects what in man would be called homely philosophy, in a woman it is called common sense. She told of the beginning of her interest in the woman movement, which dated back to her early youth.

"I was just out of college," she said, "and recently married to a newspaper man in a small town, when I began noticing and resenting the way a housewife's independence was restricted. In those days it was not customary for a woman to work outside of the home. If her husband owned a business, then it was all right for her to work in his shop or office because her services belonged to him anyway, and she was not working for her own wage. But outside of her husband's business or his home, work for women was taboo.

"I observed a neighbor family in which the mother of three children was constantly working. She did everything about the house—all her housecleaning and cooking. She made practically all the clothing for the family. She churned her own butter, took care of the chickens, did her own washing and even made her own soap. I know that that woman earned at the very least half the income of that family. Yet, when she wanted one night to go to the nickelodeon, which was all we had in those days in the way of picture shows, she even had to ask her husband for two nickels to take herself and her friend. After she had explained to him what she wanted and why, he gave her the two nickels, and then in a burst of magnanimity, as she started out of the door, he dived into his pocket and brought out a thin dime and said, 'Here, get yourselves a couple of sodas on your way home.'

"I was not alone in my criticism of this condition, which still exists in many homes. My husband's mother was a newspaper woman and he had a broader view of woman's place in the scheme of things. When I returned home, seething with indignation, and discussed this state of affairs, he asked, 'Why don't you write an editorial on woman's rights?' That was just about the time the agitation for the woman's vote was reaching its height in England."

Mrs. Ferguson described the attitude then prevalent in her community. Speakers who discussed women's rights on the platform were hooted. They and their subject were the butt of jokes everywhere, she said. As their interest grew, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson conceived the novel plan of writing editorials on both sides of the question, she defending women's rights, he opposing. Although their neighbors misunderstood and lamented the rift in the Ferguson household, "which was just what you might have expected anyway from his marrying one of those college girls," they themselves were perfectly satisfied—their newspaper circulation grew by leaps and bounds. The unusual plan attracted the attention of editors in other parts of the country, and it is from that time that Mrs. Ferguson dates her rapid rise to the position of being one of the foremost women columnists in the country and one who is noted for her common sense and feminine viewpoint. She is now an ardent supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment. She plans, on her return to Tulsa, to organize the women of her state in a campaign to influence the Oklahoma delegation in Congress to vote for the amendment.

"The more people went into the subject of woman suffrage," she said, "the more they were in favor of it. I believe the same thing is true of the Equal Rights Amendment. It needs only to be studied and opposition will fade away. I am proud to say that our Senator Elmer Thomas was one of the co-sponsors when Senator Gillette of Iowa introduced the amendment in this session of the Senate.

"Many of us have been slightly disillusioned about what we thought women would accomplish with the vote, but women are still under a yoke. Until they have full equality, they have no independence of choice. They still feel an inferiority and are constrained by it. The working woman, fighting against it, is inclined to become masculine; the housewife, submitting to it, is inclined to become snobbish, and a dangerous rift is growing from this misunderstanding. Housewives must become fully conscious of their citizenship, and working women must strive to retain the difference between man's and woman's viewpoint, or we shall become a nation without roots and without home life. Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment will do much to heal this rift. It will give dignity, independence and a sense of responsibility to the housewife and it will relieve the working woman and professional woman of the constant necessity of struggling to make a place for themselves."

Mrs. Ferguson plans to write a series of articles for her syndicated column on the National Woman's Party, the Equal Rights Amendment, and the beautiful Alva Belmont House.

Oklahoma Chairman Honor Guest At Tea

Mrs. Walter Ferguson, the new Oklahoma State Chairman of the National Woman's Party, was the honor guest at a tea in the Alva Belmont House Sunday afternoon, April 2. The program included a talk by Mrs. Ferguson, touching on the status of women in Oklahoma and reviewing the beginnings of her own interest in the woman movement. The other speaker was ex-Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma, who will be remembered as one of the earliest and most ardent supporters of the Suffrage Amendment in Congress. Muna Lee of the State Department introduced these speakers.

Receiving with Mrs. Ferguson were Alice Paul, Chairman of the National Woman's Party; Mrs. Elmer Thomas, wife of Senator Thomas; ex-Senator and Mrs. Owen; ex-Senator and Mrs. Gore; ex-Senator and Mrs. Josh Lee; R. R. Zimmerman; W. T. Crozier, and Paul Walker, President, Vice President and Past President, respectively, of the Oklahoma State Society, with Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. Crozier and Mrs. Walker.

In the dining room Mrs. Zimmerman was in charge. Pouring tea were Mrs. Wesley Disney, Mrs. Ross Rizley and Mrs. Victor Wickersham, wives of the Oklahoma representatives. Assisting them were other officers of the Oklahoma State Society, Mrs. Philip Smith, Miss Edith Cowan and Mrs. Emmeline Samuel.

Ushers for the afternoon were Le Moyne Rizley, Mary Zimmerman, Shirley Taylor, Joan Johnson and Mary Louise Lee.

The Chairman of Arrangements was Mrs. May Frank Rhoads, who was formerly teacher of journalism at the University of Oklahoma and Literary Editor of "The Oklahoman." Mrs. Rhoads was for some time last year Press Chairman for the National Woman's Party.

Women Called Best As Train Announcers

NEW YORK (U. P.)—The dulcet tones of a feminine voice heard over the public address system in the great concourse of the Pennsylvania Station are now taking the place of the old-fashioned gibberish of the train announcer.

Having started using women to announce train schedules and special messages, the Pennsylvania Railroad is going a step further and having all their announcers instructed in voice technique before a microphone by specialized teachers from Radio City.

It has been found, officials say, that the low-pitched male voice, so effective on the air, picks up echoes in the large spaces of the concourse and comes out a low, unintelligible growl. Women's voices, on the other hand, come out clear, friendly and understandable.

Equal Rights For Women

By MARGE EGGLESTON

(Released by Peck Associates, 137 E. 38th Street, New York, N. Y.)

From time to time since Pearl Harbor, I have done considerable, justifiable boasting about the prowess of the so-called "weaker sex"—of which I am proud to be a member. Now, I would like to pen a few words on that subject, in the hope that some of you ladies will pass my comments on to husband or sweetheart or, at any rate, to one of the members of the so-called "stronger sex."

Recently my attention was called to an expression of opinion on the part of a Pennsylvania judge. His statement confirms what I have suspected for some time. He said that women make better jurors than men, and backed up his statement by calling attention to their "unerring intuition" and "keen perception of facts". My sincere thanks, in which I know all American women will join me, to this learned judge of the Keystone State.

Now, in view of the fact that women are proving in this war that they can die in defense of their country—that they are more than holding their own on the war production line, I am wondering just what more we will have to do to convince the MEN of Congress that they have no right to deny us equal rights.

Back in 1923 the following resolution, proposing an amendment to the Constitution was introduced in Congress: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress and the several States shall have power within their respective jurisdictions to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. This amendment shall take effect 5 years after the date of ratification."

Doesn't this seem like a reasonable proposal—don't you think that we women are entitled to the equality which the passage of this amendment would give us? But for 20 years Congressional Committees have "passed the buck" and refused to bring the proposal out on the floor of the House for discussion. Last October the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives by a vote of 15 to 11, gave the proposal another "run-around" by failing to report it out of committee.

For the life of me, I am at a loss to understand this action on the part of this Judiciary Committee. What system of logic could these 15 reactionaries have used in having voted down this proposal? The arguments against extending equal rights to my sex are not potent, while on the other hand, the arguments for giving us a "square deal" are strong and robust. At any rate, why should the Judiciary Committee refuse to let the proposal come on the floor of the House for discussion? Can it be because they knew that Congress by an overwhelming majority would vote to submit the proposed amendment to the 48 states for ratification? I'll answer that question—I am sure that must have been the reason.

As previously stated, the American women enjoy the right to spill their blood for their country, but in civil life they suffer legal disabilities, under laws in the various states, that make them and their property subject to their husbands' control; deprive them of just and humane rights in their children, and limit their ability to earn a living.

The Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution would rectify these grievous wrongs and give to women the same rights that men, both colored and white, now enjoy. It is a strange paradox that we are fighting a war for freedom and at the same time the women of the United States are denied the very rights we seek to bestow upon people all over the world. It seems to me that while we are so all-out in our efforts to free the world, we should take into account that this country is a part of the world, and do a little "free-ing" right here at home in America.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution gave us equal franchise at the polls. Speaking on behalf of my sex, I hereby serve notice that we women are going to become vocal as the November election approaches. We are going to question all Congressional candidates and our vote is going to those Congressmen who commit themselves unequivocably to support the Equal Rights Amendment. We have been patient for 20 years, but now we are aroused and determined that this nation shall grant to us the things for which we have taken up arms for the rest of the world. This may not seem a very lady-like procedure, but it appears to be the only way in which we can get the Equal Rights Amendment out of Committee onto the floor of the House for discussion, and before the 48 States for the verdict of the American jury of voters. I have every confidence that the verdict of the American jury of voters will be to give us equal rights which we have earned, to which we are fully entitled, and which a handful of moss-backed, unprogressive and unenlightened Congressmen have denied us for all too long a time.

Senator Joseph H. Ball of Minnesota Endorses the Amendment

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on Education and Labor

March 4, 1944.

MRS. ETHEL E. MURRELL,
National Legislative Chairman,
National Association of Women Lawyers,
1500 Brickell Avenue,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Mrs. Murrell:

Thank you for your letter of March 1 regarding the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

I have studied the Amendment and issue and have made up my mind to support the Equal Rights Amendment. It seems to me that only such a provision in our basic laws will force some of the states to change their unjust laws and also stop the continual attempts to discriminate against women. I am convinced that laws protecting women working can be amended easily if necessary. I may support amendments to the bill if they appear to be sound.

Sincerely,
(*Signed*) JOSEPH H. BALL.

Former Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma Endorses the Amendment

March 29, 1944.

MISS ALICE PAUL,
144 B Street, N. E.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Paul:

Accept my thanks for copy of EQUAL RIGHTS, of March. The Virginia resolutions were excellent and I approve them 100%.

I go further and state as my opinion that no nation rises higher than its women, or its mothers. To deny my mother equality of right in every respect before the law, in commerce and industry or as a member of the family, I regard as absolutely indefensible from a social, moral, economic and political sense and against the public interest.

I call your attention to the complete equality of women in every respect in the Soviet Republics of Russia and the distinguished services rendered by women under that system.

Any representative in Congress who votes against equal rights for women should not be permitted to escape the consideration and disapproval of the women voters of his district in the next election. May I not give my blessing to the objectives you advocate in equal rights for women and my assurance that wherever and whenever I can I shall be glad to support your principles in this matter.

Yours faithfully,
(*Signed*) ROBERT L. OWEN.

ADA DAVENPORT KENDALL

Member New York State Council, National Woman's Party

"Many women in protected homes and protected positions oppose the Equal Rights Amendment and oppose it honestly. They have not suffered from the handicaps and injustice of political and legal inequality in divorce courts, in industry and in professional work.

"They have not discovered that the so-called welfare bills are sinister and dangerous and are born of ignorance, jealousy and greed.

"Women and the men, too, would profit greatly from the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment."

ADA DAVENPORT KENDALL.

DADE COUNTY (FLA.) FEDERATION ENDORSES

The Dade County Federation of Women's Clubs of Florida endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment Thursday, March 22, 1944.

Mary Wilhelmine Williams

"Teacher, Historian, Pacifist, Feminist"

Dr. Mary Wilhelmine Williams, former professor of history at Goucher College and an authority on Latin-American affairs, died at the Palo Alto Hospital March 11, 1944.

Miss Williams was born in Stanislaus county May 14, 1878, and received her education at San Jose State Normal School, Stanford, the University of California, and the University of Chicago. Her Ph.D. degree was conferred by Stanford in 1914. She carried on free lance historical research in Europe and Latin-America, particularly in Brazil.

Her teaching career started in the California public schools and included instructorships at Stanford, Wellesley, and Goucher, where she retired as full professor with the emeritus rank in 1940. She introduced at Goucher the first course in Canadian history given in any collegiate institution in the United States and a class in the history of the woman movement in the United States.

Dr. Williams served as an expert for Honduras in the State Department's mediation of the Honduran-Guatemalan boundary dispute in 1918-19, and in a later dispute with Nicaragua; served as a member of the advisory committee on intellectual cooperation with Latin-America and a State Department subcommittee on exchange fellowships and professorships; acted as secretary of the conference on Hispanic American history of the American Historical Association from 1928 to 1934, and has written and edited much authoritative material in her field.

At the time of her death she was working on the third revision of her volume, "The People and Politics of Latin America," and a new book on the diplomatic history of the United States. The energy which she was devoting to these projects and the organizations in which she was interested are believed by her friends to have hastened her death.

She was tireless in her efforts to advance the causes of peace, equal rights for women, elimination of race prejudice, and inter-American understanding.

For her work in the latter field she was awarded the heraldic Order of Cristobal Colon with the rank of "grand official" by the Dominican Republic. She was also the winner of the Justin Winsor Prize of the American Historical Association.

Toured for AAUW

The American Association of University Women paid $2,400 toward her expenses for a year of investigation in South America in 1926-27. She had visited all 20 of the Latin-American countries, following by-ways as well as highways.

Among the organizations in which she was active after retiring to Palo Alto were the AAUW, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the National Woman's Party.

She was active up to within a few days of her death.

—*Daily Palo Alto Times*, Saturday, March 11, 1944.

Women Are Trained To Replace Firemen

The Mill Creek Fire Company of Marshallton, Del., has trained a corps of 15 women to serve as volunteer firemen as a result of the manpower shortage threatening rural companies.

The Brandywine Fire Company of Bellefonte, Pa., originated the women's brigade several months ago, and the two organizations can now put a total of 35 women in the field.

The women are needed during the day when many of the volunteer members are working. The Mill Creek Company, according to Chief Scott V. Norris, has had its regular complement of 65 firemen reduced to less than 20.

—From *Wilmington News*, March 24, 1944.

Women Not Free?

Reader Answers Equality Views of Mrs. Roosevelt

To the New York Herald Tribune:

You published an article in which you quote Mrs. Roosevelt as being opposed to the equal rights amendment on the grounds that:

(a) It would be difficult to administer.

(b) It would put an end to the so-called "welfare laws," especially minimum wages and hours of work now applicable to women only.

(c) Correction of inequalities by state legislation is more desirable than Federal legislation.

Mrs. Roosevelt is a charming lady, and, I believe, a sincere humanitarian, but she remains fundamentally the Lady of the Manor. To discuss her objections separately:

(a) It would be no more difficult to administer than equal suffrage.

(b) The welfare laws as they now exist need not be abolished but could be made applicable to men as well as women, which, it appears, Mrs. Roosevelt is willing to have done by the states.

(c) This is impracticable and undesirable because state legislation is so easily repealed.

I should like to ask Mrs. Roosevelt if she would be willing that Negroes' equality before the law be left to the tender mercies of the individual states, especially the Southern states, rather than that they be shielded as they now are by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Or, would she prefer that the Jews and Catholics exercise their freedom to worship as they please by sufferance of the states, rather than have it, as now, guaranteed them by the First Amendment to the Constitution?

I should like to remind Mrs. Roosevelt, whose motives are, I am sure, entirely disinterested, and therefore, though I believe them to be mistaken, entitled to respect, that the price of security is the loss of freedom.

The majority of American Negroes before emancipation were better off from a material standpoint than large numbers of free Negroes today, but would any one maintain that freedom is not preferable to the most comfortable and secure slavery? Women in the United States are not free so long as they may be discriminated against before the law simply because they are women; so long as they are not "persons" within the purview of the Constitution of the United States.

Let us have full, legal equality as American citizens. Then, and then only will we be free, and no price is too high to pay for that.

C. R. KEFAUVER (Brooklyn, Feb. 5, 1944).

(From New York Herald Tribune, February 10, 1944.)

"Because of the increased cost of labor and material, the subscription to Equal Rights has been raised to $1.50. To those members who send in one dollar, we will continue the magazine for eight months."

Equal Pay For Men And Women Teachers In Great Britain

The startling flareup in the British House of Commons on March 28th, 1944, over the question of equal pay for men and women teachers, almost led to the first defeat of the Churchill Government since it was welded together by the major parties in 1940.

Progress in education is one of the cornerstones for a better Britain after the war. The scene in the House of Commons on March 28th was interesting on account of the lights and shadows it threw on the political stage.

Thelma Cazalet-Keir, a feminist Member of Parliament, was able to rally an enthusiastic crowd of Members of all parties behind her. When the roll was called her amendment to the Government's Education Bill was 117 to 116. Mr. Richard Butler, President of the Board of Education, defended his bill. But the debate stampeded far beyond his control. Equal rights for women was the major issue, and was adroitly introduced into the education debate, which is itself of major importance. Faced with the choice of voting against Mr. Butler, or against equal pay for women, many members preferred to step out of the House. Among them were a high proportion of Conservatives, who would support the Prime Minister, in a showdown, and the Laborites, who could not face trades unions after voting either way on the question.

On March 29th, the Government side won in a revote, 425 to 23, which was the Prime Minister's eighth vote of confidence. The question was whether the House would stand by its action of the day before, when it overrode the Churchill Government, for the first time, by adopting a measure providing equal pay for equal work by men and women teachers.

Mrs. Cazelet-Keir, who offered the equal pay amendment in the first place, told the House, as stated in the Washington *Evening Star:*

> "The Prime Minister has left no other possible choice open to us than to support him. In this vote of confidence I am going to vote against a clause embodying my own amendment, not because my views are changed at all on equal pay, but because more vital matters have been superimposed upon it. In this great democracy of ours, convention for once seems to have overruled common sense."

Mr. Raymond Gram Swing, already quoted in the leading article in this issue, said over the Blue Network (WMAL) from Washington, D. C., March 29th:

> "The debate became hot and confused. Richard Butler, the President of the Board of Education, presumably might have withdrawn the paragraph about equal pay, and given the cabinet a chance to revise it. But he did not feel he had a right to. . . . The upshot of the drama will be Mr. Churchill's victory. But he will have to take account of what has happened."

This incident is a revealing indication of what women can expect after the war. If in the middle of this war, in Great Britain, where women are conscripted for service, and where women are patriotically making every effort and sacrifice to bring victory to pass, a simple measure of justice like this one is defeated, what can women expect after the war? This defeat of justice to women is another indication that women must gain all now. While they are needed and wanted they must win the final goal of equal status with men, otherwise their sacrifices and contributions to the common effort will be forgotten.

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Telephone receipts	7.36
Sale of Literature	16.78
Income from Investment & Endowment Fund	500.00
Total	$6790.54

A Feminist Thinks It Over

By ALMA LUTZ

Women's Economic Freedom Is At Stake

IN A RECENT letter to all Congressmen, Philip Murray of the C. I. O. characterized the Equal Rights Amendment as "extremely dangerous" to the welfare of women workers and of working people as a whole, and added that "under the label of equal rights for women the proposal actually conceals the means of robbing women" of many rights and privileges.

It is hard to understand how equal rights can be "extremely dangerous" to any group or rob them of rights or protection. Equal rights for all is a basic principle of free government. On this principle as a foundation, adequate protection for various groups of citizens can be worked out. For example, we protect the veterans of our wars with bonuses and with job preferences and we care for the incapacitated, and yet they are given equal legal rights with men who are not soldiers. In the same way, maternity legislation would not be affected by an amendment extending equal legal rights to women. As regards labor legislation, equal rights for women can, with the proper direction which labor unions should furnish, lead to improved working conditions for all with regulations on the job and not on the sex of the worker.

Mr. Murray's false conclusions definitely put him on record as believing that women must be kept in a class apart economically and legally and that they must not be given the same rights as men. This is a serious matter which women would do well to analyze, for their economic freedom is at stake. Either women are fit for and entitled to full citizenship rights, political, legal and economic, or they must be regarded as subcitizens, not qualified for the rights of free men.

Of course, Mr. Murray has not stated the case as badly as this. He has presented the matter with such zeal for women's welfare that many who do not probe beneath the surface may believe that this good man and his fellow unionists are really looking after the interests of women. And perhaps these men have actually been able to convince themselves that they are animated only by chivalrous and benevolent motives. But their attack on the Equal Rights Amendment as a gold brick with concealed danger to women makes the best kind of a smoke screen to hide the terror that is in men's hearts regarding the competition of women for the jobs after the war.

As early as 1836, the New England Association of Farmers, Mechanics, and Other Workers passed a resolution recommending the restriction of women in industry because they were "a competitive menace to men," and this cry has been echoed by men's unions through the years in legislative hearings and elsewhere, while restrictive legislation for women workers has been championed under the guise of protection. Now, Mr. Murray answers the echo with a plea for special protection for women at the expense of legal rights. The reasons are obvious for all who wish to see. If women can be protected by laws not applying to men in business and industry, if they can be tied up with all sorts of regulations for the good of their health and morals and for the good of the race, then men can continue to monopolize the labor market as they have done in the past, and women's efficient work and quickly learned skills, so useful in war years, will soon be just a memory.

Since women are a minority group in labor unions with little power or opportunity to form policy or express independence of thought, Mr. Murray cannot honestly speak for working women. It is a matter of record that most unions have not welcomed women as members until recently when admitting women became necessary for the protection of unions. The principles of equal pay for equal work and equal pay bills have been supported by unions to protect men from the undercutting of lower-paid women, but as yet most union men have not regarded women as partners in the building of a democratic labor movement.

Only men's fear of women's economic independence and their age-old illusion that women are too different to need rights could possibly lead them to declare that the Equal Rights Amendment, extending full legal and economic rights to women, would mean the exploitation of women. All the signs of the time indicate otherwise. The Federal Fair Standards Act, applying to industry and not to the sex of the worker, has proved its worth. Patterned after it, State Fair Labor Standards Acts are in the making. The War Labor Board has endorsed the policy of equal pay for equal work, even if that policy is not always carried out. Equal pay bills have been passed in Washington, Michigan, Illinois and New York. Men and women who never before have worked in industry now know from experience that management should be required to give all workers a certain amout of protection and they can be depended upon in the next years to support necessary labor legislation. The five years given under the Amendment to States to bring their laws into line will give ample opportunity to men and women who have the welfare of workers at heart to revise State labor laws to meet modern demands and give adequate protection to all workers.

Woman Movement A Revolution

(Continued from Page 30)

Wyoming.) "Rest assured that I shall give my earnest support." **(Rep. Fay, New York.)** "Am very much interested and you may be sure it will have my continued support." **(Rep. Ludlow, Indiana.)** "You may be certain I shall continue to exert every effort toward its early consideration." **(Rep. Cannon, Florida.)** "I was most happy to sign the Petition . . . and have made a public statement in favor of it." **(Rep. Stanley, New York.)** ". . . . always felt that women as citizens are entitled to the same rights as men and favor such legislation." **(Rep. White, Idaho.)** "Have continuously supported it and expect to continue." **(Senator Langer, North Dakota.)** ". . . see no reason why the women should not be permitted complete recognition in our affairs." **(Rep. Holifield, California.)** And many, many more.

And to cap the climax came this wire from Wyoming which we now proudly claim as our 100 per cent State with its whole Congressional delegation pledged:

TELEGRAM

March 18, 1944.

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
144 B ST., N. E., WASH., D. C.

AS GOVERNOR OF THE EQUALITY STATE WHICH WAS THE FIRST TO GIVE WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE, I HEARTILY ENDORSE THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION GRANTING EQUAL RIGHTS TO WOMEN.

LESTER C. HUNT, GOVERNOR.